Australian Bureau of Statistics

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Trade union membership down 5% over 12 months to August 2007: ABS

Almost one in five employees (19% or 1.7 million people) were trade union members in conjunction with their main job in August 2007, according to figures released today by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

This was a fall of 89,600 from the previous year. The proportion of employees who were trade union members also decreased from 20% to 19% over the same period.

The ABS also found that a higher proportion of full-time employees were trade union members than part-time employees (21% compared with 14%), as were public sector employees compared to those in the private sector (41% compared with 14%).

Employees earned, on average, $916 in their main job. Mean weekly earnings in their main job was $1,126 for full-time employees and $412 for part-time employees. Male full-time employees earned, on average, $1,212 in their main job, compared to $971 for female full-time employees.

Other findings on earnings in main job included:

- The Australian Capital Territory had the highest mean weekly earnings ($1,122), while Tasmania had the lowest ($773).
- The mining industry had the highest mean weekly earnings for full-time employees ($1,772), while accommodation and food services had the lowest ($781).
- The age group with the highest mean weekly earnings for full-time employees was 35-44 year olds ($1,284), while the lowest was 15-19 year olds ($493).

Three-quarters (75%) of employees[1] were entitled to paid holiday leave and/or paid sick leave in their main job. Other findings on leave entitlements included:

- The proportion of full-time employees[1] with paid leave entitlements was 89%, compared with 43% of part-time employees[1].
- The age group with the highest proportion of employees[1] with paid leave entitlements was 45-54 year olds (83%), while the lowest was 15-19 year olds (34%), partly reflecting the higher proportion of part-time employees in the latter category.

Further information can be found in *Employee Earnings, Benefits and Trade Union Membership, Australia, August 2007* (cat. no. 6310.0).

Media Note:

1. Excluding those employees who were owner managers of incorporated enterprises.

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